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Transmitted via email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-4-4

SUBJECT: ECS – PLANT SELECTION TOOLS

Purpose. To provide web-based information on tools used to select tree and shrub plant materials for conservation practices.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2004

Many conservation practices include the establishment and management of trees and/or shrubs. Success of the project depends on using “the right plant in the right place at the right time”. There are several web-based tools that provide important species specific information concerning plant materials. Four of these tools are found on the MN NRCS eFOTG under Section I and one is found in Section II.

To view the tools in Section I, go to the eFOTG from the MN NRCS homepage <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/>, and click on Technical Resources on the menu bar. Click on Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). On the USA map click on the state of Minnesota, then on your county. In the eFOTG section, click on Section I then “B. Reference Lists”. Scroll down to Plant Selection Tools, click to expose the list of the four tools found here.

To find the CTSG, click eFOTG, then on Section II. Click on “A. Soils Information” and then on “7. Soil Interpretations”. Scroll down to “m. Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups”.

Below are the webpage addresses for the plant selection tools.

VegSpec in the PLANTS Database:

<http://ironwood.itc.nrcs.usda.gov/Netdynamics/Vegspec/pages/HomeVegspec.htm>

MN/DOT Plant Selector: <http://www.plantselector.dot.state.mn.us/>

DNR State Forest Nurseries Web page: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nurseries/index.html>

Silvics of North America Volumes I and II:

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics\\_manual/table\\_of\\_contents.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/table_of_contents.htm)

VegSpec and MN/DOT's Plant Selector are dependent on the conservation practice design and detailed site conditions. They result in a list of species. Both have links that contain detailed plant descriptions. The DNR State Forest Nurseries web page discusses plant selection under three headings, "Trees For All Seasons", "Right Tree For The Right Situation", and "Choosing The Right Tree". Each chapter explains either tree characteristics, site conditions or general soil characteristics involved in deciding which tree or shrub to plant. The Silvics Manual reference describes trees and some shrubs in very comprehensive, technical details. The tree or shrub species are listed in both scientific and common names. The CTSG groups soils into 10 categories with a list of associated species for each soil group. You only need to know the soil map unit to use this reference. It is currently under review for revisions.

These references provide valuable information on plant selection, establishment and management. Before finalizing your plant selections, be sure that the list meets program requirements and follows the standard for the conservation practice. If you have questions, contact Ginger Kopp, State Staff Forester, email [ginger.kopp@mn.usda.gov](mailto:ginger.kopp@mn.usda.gov) , phone 651-602-7909.

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